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Blaydon
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year ending 31st December,
1959

A. A. Fletcher and Son, Ltd., Swalwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1960

Blaydon
Urban District Council

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY
1959.

Medical Officer of Health :
JAMES TAYLOR, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :
GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :
WILSON JOYCE, M.A.P.H.I.
1 Vacancy.

Pupil Public Health Inspector :
THOMAS GIBSON

Public Health Clerk :
MARGARET YOUNG

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Blaydon-on-Tyne.
August, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Blaydon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1959.

Vital statistics show little change from 1958, but the death rate rose from 10.94 in 1958 to 13.55 in 1959. As in previous years the most frequent cause of death was cardiovascular disease with 155 cases and Cancer second with 75 cases. No death attributable to infectious disease occurred except one case of Syphilitic disease. For the second year in succession no death from tuberculosis was notified.

Of infectious Diseases, Scarlet Fever rose from 7 cases (1958) to 39 cases (1959) while Whooping Cough fell from 55 to 11. The usual bi-annual epidemic of measles occurred with 367 cases.

Clearance of unfit houses under the five-year plan continued. Up to the end of 1959, 720 unfit houses had been dealt with.

The food Hygiene Regulations have received some attention but the continuing shortage of staff limited the scale of operations.

Measurement of atmospheric pollution was done daily of the air in lower Blaydon and the results fully justify implementation of the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Measurement of pollution in other parts of the district is planned for 1960.

I am grateful to the County Medical Officer and other County Council departments for information contained in this report.

Thanks are also due to the Senior Public Health Inspector of Blaydon and his staff for assistance in compiling this report and willing co-operation during the year. The Clerk and other Officers of the Council have also contributed in their various ways.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The acreage is 9,325.

Present density of population is 3.30 persons per acre.

Highest density of population (in 1925) was 3.96 persons per acre.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of our mid-1959 civilian population was 30,770 an increase of 170 on last year.

At the 1931 census the population stood at 32,248.

At the 1951 census the population stood at 30,791.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959 was 9,943

The density of persons per house was therefore 3.094.

Comparability factors:—

Births	...	...	...	...	0.96
Deaths	...	...	...	...	1.23

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district, as at 31st December, 1959, was £272,461 excluding Freight Transport and Electrical Hereditaments. The Rateable value per head of population was £8/17/2 and the estimated product of a 1d. rate was £1,021.

Industries of the District.

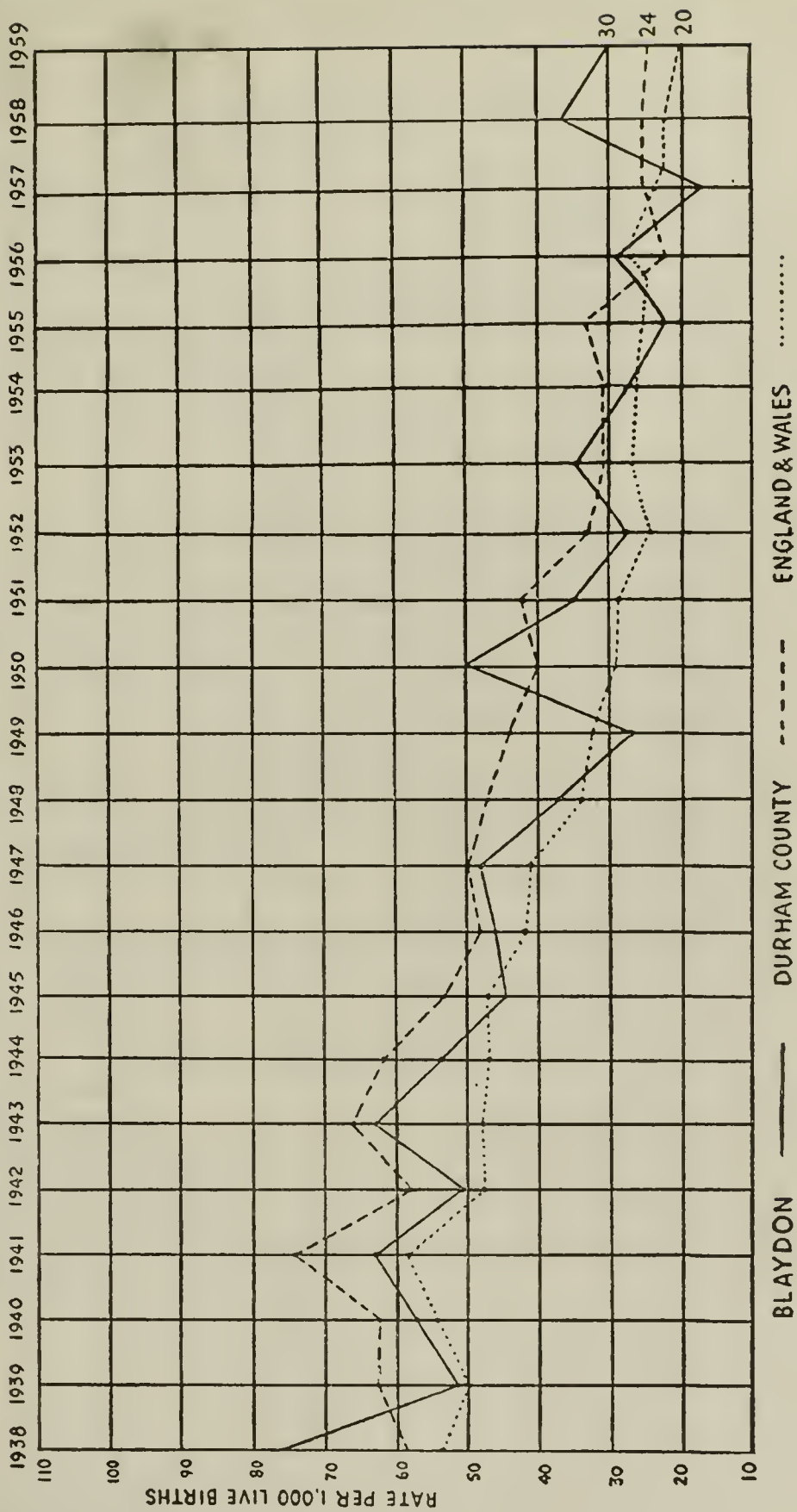
These are chiefly mining and ancillary industries for production of coke and other by-products. There are also Iron and Steel Engineering Works, Iron Foundries and Chemical Works. Blaydon is also a Railway Centre with large Locomotive Sheds.

Agriculture—chiefly Dairy Farming—is an important industry in the area.

Physical Features.

Hilly area, Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lie low, Winlaton and Chopwell high. The rivers Tyne and Derwent form parts of the boundary.

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rate for Blaydon, Durham County, England and Wales since



Vital Statistics for the Year, 1959

Births.

Total Live Births	...	...	498	245M	253F
Total Legitimate Births	...	...	477	233M	244F
Total Illegitimate Births	...	...	21	12M	9F
Total Still Births	...	...	9	4M	5F

This gives a Live Birth rate of 14.88 per 1,000 population compared with 16.24 in 1958 and a Still Birth rate of 0.28 per 1,000 population. (1958—0.26).

Live Birth Rate of Blaydon	...	...	14.88
Live Birth Rate of Administrative County	...	...	18.2
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	16.5

Deaths.

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 339 (177 males and 162 females). This gives a death rate of 13.55 per 1,000 population compared with 10.94 in 1958.

Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.6
Death Rate for Administrative County	...	...	10.6

Cardiovascular disease was once again the most common cause of death with 155 cases. Cancer was second with 75, of which 22 (19 male, 3 female) were cancer of lung and bronchus.

Infantile Mortality.

Total deaths of infants under one year of age in 1959 was 15 (male 9 female 6) of which 10 (male 5, female 5) occurred during the first four weeks of life.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 30 per 1,000 live births (1958—36).

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Administrative County is 24 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 20 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of Infantile Deaths

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	6
Renal Agenesis	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Trauma	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	1
Tracheo Oesophageal fistula	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
... Total					15

Tuberculosis.

Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was Nil.

County Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.09 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales—Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.18 per 1,000 population.

New Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year numbered 11 Pulmonary (males 8, females 3). In 1958, 16 cases of Pulmonary were notified. No non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during 1959.

Ambulance Facilities.

Durham County Council provide the Ambulance Service for the Administrative County.

The Message Receiving Centre for Blaydon District is at the Ambulance Station, East Street, Stanley (Stanley 570). This centre is open for message reception 24 hours a day.

A General Service Depot is at Winlaton. The function of this depot is to deal with routine work of the service from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

District Nursing.

The County Council is the responsible Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act for the provision of a Home Nursing Service. Any requests for a Home Nurse should be made to the Nurse resident in the district or to the County Medical Officer's Superintendent of Home Nursing.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Clinics for school children, maternity and child welfare are provided by the County Council at various centres throughout the district.

Dental and sun-ray treatment are available for mothers and children at the Axwell Park, Blaydon Clinic, which is the main centre in the district.

Hospital Provisions.

The provision of Hospital, Sanatorium and Maternity Home accommodation is the responsibility of the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board.

National Health Service Act, 1946

No. 1 Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts)
Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee deals with the
undermentioned services:—

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Maternity and Child Welfare.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visitors.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulances.
- (h) Prevention of Illness and Care and After-Care of Sick Persons.
- (i) Domestic Help.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed to the Sheriff Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital or to the Walkergate Hospital.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district such cases would be treated at the Langley Park Hospital.

Venereal Disease.

These are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The only cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year were:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	39	(Male	20	Female	19)
Measles	...	...	367	(Male	186	Female	181)
Whooping Cough	...	...	11	(Male	3	Female	8)
Pneumonia	...	...	3	(Male	1	Female	2)
Dysentery	...	...	17	(Male	8	Female	9)
Food Poisoning	...	...	3	(Male	2	Female	1)
Meningococcal Infection			1	(Male)			
Erysipelas	...	...	2	(Female)			
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	(Female)			

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

3 Injections	--	1102	—	M	602
				F	500
2 Injections	—	2572	—	M	1272
				F	1300
1 Injection	--	165	—	M	90
				...F	75

Smallpox Vaccination.

	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Totals
Primary	57	65	62	73	257
Revaccinations	3	13	14	10	40.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.

	Primary	Reinforcing
Diphtheria only	33	154
Combined Diphtheria and W. Cough	401	35
Whooping Cough only	10	—

Food Poisoning, 1959.

Three cases of food poisoning occurred during the year. All were members of one family. Bacteriological examination of specimens resulted in the *Salmonella* Heidelberg organisms being isolated. Investigations were carried out in an effort to determine the origin of the infections, without success.

Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Pathological Institute, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4, by arrangement with the Durham County Council. They are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulm'ary		Pulmonary		Non pulm'ary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 34	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 44	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 54	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 64	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

At the end of the year the Register showed the following figures:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F
78	89	28	26

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1959

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO I.D. HOSPITALS	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
Scarlet Fever	39	—	39	—
Whooping Cough	11	—	11	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	367	—	367	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	3	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis				
Paralytic	1	1	1	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Infective ...	—	—	—	—
Post Infections	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	17	—	17	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	3	—
Tuberculosis - Respiratory ...	11	—	11	—
Tuberculosis - Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Other Forms ...	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	2	—

Infectious Diseases

Analysis of Positive Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	1	8	15	11	1	—	—	—	—	39
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	2	1	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	11
Measles	5	37	51	50	68	154	1	—	1	—	—	—	367
Dysentery	—	5	1	—	1	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	17
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Totals	6	43	56	54	78	178	12	2	10	—	3	2	444

**Registrar General's Short List of Causes
of Death during 1959.**

Causes of Death	Males	F'males
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	—
2. Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	1	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ...	10	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung Bronchus ...	19	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast ...	—	8
13. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus ...	—	4
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	14
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	2
16. Diabetes ...	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	20	25
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	32	21
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	4
20. Other Heart Disease ...	14	21
21. Other Circulatory Disease ...	9	7
22. Influenza ...	1	3
23. Pneumonia ...	4	2
24. Bronchitis ...	13	6
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	3	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	15	26
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	1
34. All Other Accidents ...	7	4
35. Suicide ...	2	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—
Totals ...	177	162

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Water Supply.

All houses in the district are supplied with good quality water piped direct to each house from the Water Companies' mains. The township of Blaydon is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The supply is continuous and plentiful. The remainder of the district is supplied by Durham County Water Board.

A private water supply in the Stella district involving 25 houses was found to be unsatisfactory and was discontinued. The premises involved were all connected to the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Closet Accommodation

Sanitary Accommodation	Number at 31-12-58	Increase or Decrease during the year					Number at 31-12-59
		By Conversion	By Improvement	By New Houses	Discontinued Houses Demolished, etc.	Total Increase or Decrease	
Water Closets	11668	—	+ 7	+ 293	-134	+144	11834
Ash Closets	213	—	—	—	-77	-77	126
Privy Middens	13	—	—	—	-13	-13	Nil

Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse.

In certain parts of the district where houses are occupied by miners and where there is a large amount of refuse, two collec-

tions per week are made. In all other parts of the district a weekly collection is made.

Six collecting vehicles are in use, five on regular rounds and one spare.

26 men are regularly employed on Collection, 3 on Disposal and 1 Foreman is in charge of the whole district.

2 vehicles, 2 drivers, 10 loaders and 1 tip man are based at and operate from each of two depots—Winlaton and Chopwell. One vehicle, a driver and 2 loaders, based at Winlaton, operates in all parts of the district cleansing ash closets and outlying premises.

An order for a 16/18 cu. yd. Fore and Aft. Tipper was placed with Shelvoke and Drewry Ltd. to be delivered in 1960.

Clean Air.

A Volumetric gauge for the measurement of air pollution was installed in November, 1958. The recordings taken during 1959 confirm that the lower part of Blaydon is subject to a comparatively high degree of air pollution during the foggy conditions of the winter months. Much of this may be due to the smog which drifts up the river valley from the highly industrial parts of Tyneside; to the power stations situated in the adjoining districts; to the engine sheds on Chainbridge Road but smoke from domestic chimneys of houses in the congested area between Shibdon Road and the river must be considered a contributory factor.

Summary of Sanitary Defects and Nuisances Remedied

General Summary

	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice	Legal Proceed- ings and General Remarks
Housing:—					
Public Health and Housing Acts	1971	145	—	159	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
Insufficient	56	43	—	43	—
Defective	96	58	—	92	—
Drainage	204	101	—	158	—
Water Supply	23	14	—	20	—
Food Premises	215	2	—	15	—
Shops Act	327	4	—	4	—
Dairies	3	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses:—					
Public	—	—	—	—	—
Private	185	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	4	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	83	7	—	7	—
Keeping of Animals	13	2	—	5	—
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	228	228	—	228	—
Offensive Accumulations	12	4	—	4	—
Smoke Nuisances Abatement	33	1	—	1	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	172	—	—	—	—
Total	3625	609	—	736	—

Offices.

Offices have been visited and action taken where necessary.

Camping Sites

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

Picture Halls

The 6 Picture Halls in the district have been visited and any necessary action taken.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the area.

Factories Act, 1937-1948.

83 visits were made to premises under the Factories Act 7 cases where contraventions of the Acts and Regulations were found, informal action was taken with satisfactory results.

Bakehouses.

The 4 Bakehouses in the district have been regularly visited and premises and personnel examined. The need for constant vigilant care in handling food was stressed to all personnel.

Housing.

The Programme for the clearance of unfit houses was continued and during the year 1 Clearance Area at Blaydon Burn comprising of 11 houses was confirmed without modification.

Demolition Orders were made on 4 individual unfit houses.

The rehousing of displaced families from unfit houses proceeded according to schedule.

Tabular Statement for year 1959.

New Houses Completed During Year	With State Assist- ance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ...	139	—	139
(b) By any other Housing Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ...	—	144	144
Total	139	144	283

Closing and Demolition of Houses.

A. Formal Action.

i.	Number of Houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	... ..	105
ii.	Number of Houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	... ..	— Nil
iii.	Number of Houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	... ..	Nil
iv.	Number of Houses in use as temporary accommodation (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Part 1)	... ..	Nil

B. Informal Action.

i.	Number of Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	... ..	76
ii.	Re-conditioning and Repair		

Number of Houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :—

(a)	As a result of Informal Action	... ..	142
(b)	By owners as a result of Statutory Notice	... ..	Nil
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil

Improvement Grants — Housing Acts, 1949/59.

		<u>Number of Separate Houses</u>	
		Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority	... Nil	6
(b)	Applications rejected by Local Authority	... .. Nil	Nil
(c)	Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	... ..	6

Number of Houses in the District.

Blaydon Ward	...	...	...	...	2787
Winlaton Ward	...	...	...	...	2676
Rowlands Gill Ward		...	...	...	1958
High Spen Ward	...	...	...	...	734
Chopwell Ward	...	...	...	...	1788
					9943

Meat Inspection.

Slaughter Houses.

Three privately owned Slaughter Houses are licensed but regular slaughtering takes place in only two of them. All animals slaughtered during the year were examined after slaughter and where possible ante-mortem examinations were made.

Condemnations of Meat.

For Tuberculosis.

2 Heads and Tongues.
 2 pairs Lungs.
 12-lbs. Liver and Mesenteric Fat.
 1 Pigs Head.

Other Conditions Rendering Meat Unsound

375 lbs. Liver	..	...	...	...	Parasitic
12 lbs. Liver	...	...	...	...	Telangiectasis
1 Pair Lungs	...	...	...	...	Abscesses
5 lbs. Leg of Lamb	...	...	...	...	Bruising
1 Pair Sheep's Lungs		...	...	...	Pleurisy
1 Pair Bovine Lungs	...	...	...		Parasitic
2 Pair Pigs Lungs	...	...	...		Congestion
2 Pairs Pigs Lungs		...	...	...	Pleurisy

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

	Cows	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	196	—	686	98
Number Inspected	—	196	—	686	98
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	33	—	2	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	16·83%	—	0·29%	0·41%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	4	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	2·04%	—	—	1·02%
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Food Inspection.

The following quantities of food, found to be unsound were voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of as to prevent them being used for human consumption:—

						No. of Tins	Weight lbs. ozs.	
Canned Meats.								
Ham	...	...	...	...	40	472	2
Other Canned Meats			...	...	250	896	0
Fruit	..	...	...	...	263	322	5
Vegetables			...	...	351	312	0
Milk	...	...	...	...	74	—	—
Soup	...	...	...	...	20	17	5
Fish	...	...	...	..	16	6	7

Sundries.

Sugar	...	...	...	...	—	18	0
Milk Pudding		...	...	...	34	32	0

Registration of Premises under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

One shop was registered for the sale and storage for sale of ice cream, bringing the total number registered up to 50.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Twenty-six premises are registered for the manufacture of and sale of preserved foods, etc.

Inspection of Food Premises.

All premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or sold have been inspected as often as possible during the year and 215 visits were made to these premises.

The standard of cleanliness in all food premises is improving and in the main the standard is fairly good. The shortage of staff is still reflected in the attention which is given to this class of premises in so far that the frequent and regular inspections which are necessary to maintain constant supervision over the premises and personnel engaged in handling food cannot be sustained.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949/54.

Dealers' Licences.

Pasteurised	...	...	17
Sterilised	...	...	45
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	13

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	...	...	1
Sterilised	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	1

Milk receiving depots and dairies have been visited and appropriate action taken.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year dwelling houses, business premises and agricultural properties have been visited following complaint or in the course of survey under the above Act.

The Bi-annual treatments of sewers were carried out with satisfactory results.

Sewage works and refuse tips were treated at least three times in the course of the year and where necessary additional treatment was given. All other Council properties have been kept under observation and treatment given where necessary.

